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VOL. LXXX No. 26,970

# New York Tribune

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1920

THE WEATHER

Fair and somewhat warmer to-day;  
to-morrow fair; moderate to  
fresh west winds.  
Full report on last page

TWO CENTS  
In Greater New York

THREE CENTS  
Within 300 Miles

FOUR CENTS  
Elsewhere

## Bomb Circulars Found 3 Minutes Before Blast Link It 19 Bomb Outrages; Author of Warnings Seized

### Kin Seeks to Have Fischer Held Lunatic

**Robert Pope, Brother-in-Law, Employs Counsel to Represent Prisoner at Canadian Investigation**  
**Said Morgan Would Die Inside a Week**  
**Hatred of Wall Street an Obsession; Frequently Made Wild Prophecies**

Special Dispatch to The Tribune  
BUFFALO, Sept. 17.—Edward P. Fischer, who sent post cards from Toronto, Ontario, to friends in New York City, warning them that a bomb explosion would occur in the financial district September 15, is being examined to-night by the Hamilton, Ontario, lunacy commission. Federal authorities from Buffalo will cross-question the prisoner and his brother-in-law, Robert Pope, of New York City, who is making an effort to have him adjudged insane.

Acquaintances of Fischer in Canada had noticed recently that his mind was in a peculiarly disturbed state. He made a great number of prophecies. He displayed documents which purported to show that he was a special agent in America for the French government, and he predicted that within a week France would be at war, but with whom he did not say.

He told others that he had a scientific formula for turning silver into gold in three days. He told one man that there would be no winter this year, and to another he said, "Three years ago I was going blind, but I cured my eyes by staring at the sun."

**Predicted Death of Morgan**  
Hatred of Wall Street was an obsession with him and he had been foretelling a disaster there. He even prophesied that there would be an explosion in the city on Sunday. He said to a friend "J. P. Morgan will be dead inside of a week." His acquaintances, knowing his habit of making wild prophecies, paid no attention to it.

Pope left Hamilton to-night, escorted by government agents from Buffalo, for New York City. New York police and government agents will meet them upon their arrival there in the morning. He has been instrumental in seeking to have his brother-in-law adjudged insane and admits following him from New York to Toronto and Hamilton. He was with Fischer this morning when the latter was arrested.

**Acting Strangely of Late**  
Fischer, who spent Wednesday in Niagara Falls, Ontario, was arrested in the Bank of Hamilton this morning on complaint of Pope, who told the authorities that he had been acting strangely for several days.

Fischer is said to have left New York several days ago for Toronto. After his arrest in Toronto he is said to have made an additional lot of post cards, some of which the police believe have not been delivered as yet. Fischer went to Niagara Falls the morning of the explosion and returned to Hamilton Thursday night. Pope published long articles in the press predicting the explosion as a reason for Fischer's arrest. Pope's prediction made two weeks in advance.

**Statements Are Contradictory**  
Fischer, according to the Canadian authorities, contradicted himself in his conversation and contradicted himself at every turn. He says he held the metropolitan tennis championship of New York City for several years and also claims to have been a sparring partner for Jack Dempsey, the heavy-weight champion.

Pope, in defending his brother-in-law, declares that the act which Fischer moved would preclude his being in contact with any persons of the anarchist class and that he (Pope) considered it impossible that Fischer would have come in contact with any one who would have given him information regarding the Wall Street bomb outrage. He then advanced the insanity of Fischer as a reason for Fischer's arrest. Pope's prediction made two weeks in advance.

Dispatches from the New York Police Department received in Hamilton this afternoon said that an effort to obtain Fischer's deportation to New York were met with threats of strong opposition by his attorney, Robert Morgan, K. C., who was retained by Pope immediately after the explosion.

**J. P. Morgan in Scotland**  
**Notified of Explosion**

**Guards Are Strengthened at the Bank of England; London Papers Express Sympathy**  
From The Tribune's European Bureau  
LONDON, Sept. 17.—J. P. Morgan, who is in Scotland, received a full report to-day of the explosion outside his offices in New York. The report was most reassuring, it was said, so far as injuries resulting from the explosion were concerned.  
Scotland Yard has no evidence to support the theory that the explosion was but part of a widespread plot, perhaps, with international ramifications, but, nevertheless, the city police were warned that such might be the case, and the guards at the Bank of England have been strengthened.  
All newspapers have been strengthened. All newspapers by cable describing the disaster and several of them expressed sympathy editorially.

### Conspirators Expected to Destroy Wall Street by Fire, Police Say

Further evidence that the bomb plot was designed for widespread destruction was brought out yesterday in the examination of three rusty and battered tin cans which were picked up at the scene of the blast.

These cans, with other odds and ends, were turned over to the police immediately after the explosion. Yesterday the cans were subjected to a thorough inspection by experts at Police Headquarters.

The opinion first prevailed that the three cans might have contained explosives. Later it was found the containers had been filled with gasoline and kerosene. Experts were unanimous in the belief that the plotters included conflagrations in their plans for a general destruction of the financial district.

Inspector Lahey said the presence of gasoline and kerosene probably accounted for the fact that the clothing of many of the explosion victims was burned off.

### Five Here Were Warned That Disaster Menaced Wall Street

**Friends of Fischer Who Received Messages Declare Him an Eccentric With Red Sympathies; Scout Theory of Complicity in Dynamite Plot**

Unless Edward Fischer, the one-time tennis star, lawyer and admitted eccentric, who warned friends in the financial district to "keep away from Wall Street," had prior knowledge of Thursday's bomb horror, all authorities agree he is the victim of a most remarkable coincidence.

Fischer, who was arrested yesterday in Hamilton, Ontario, gave no less than five distinct warnings that a catastrophe impended in the financial district. In some he fixed the date vaguely. In others he said the catastrophe would occur Wednesday, and in another the man to whom he spoke is positive he fixed the time of the explosion almost to the hour.

With one exception, all recipients of Fischer's warnings are intimates of his whose business takes them daily into the section where the horror occurred. This circumstance leads the authorities to regard the admonitions seriously, and the man, though painted by all his associates and intimates as an extreme eccentric, has become one of the centers of the bomb investigation.

**Many Received Warnings**  
Among those who received cards from Fischer urging them to avoid the scene of the explosion are George P. Kedge, 2 Broadway; Shepard Homans, of Prosser & Homans, 120 Broadway; Captain Arnaud, of the French High Commission, 65 Broadway; Thomas Delahanty, caretaker of the West Side Tennis Club, Ninety-third Street and Amsterdam Avenue, and T. J. O'Neill, employed by George Lamont & Son, at 61 Broadway.

William J. Flynn, chief of the United States Secret Service, said yesterday he was convinced Fischer was in an incompetent mental state, and that he could have had no knowledge of the crime. Mr. Flynn indicated that he has knowledge of the identity of the radicals responsible for the outrage, and scouted the belief that Fischer could have been in any way connected with them. Nevertheless, a Department of Justice agent was sent to Hamilton immediately upon receipt of word that the eccentric had been arrested.

Other officials were less ready to incriminate Fischer. They said that many warnings had acted upon a premonition. As soon as it was learned that Mr. Homans had received one of the eccentric's cards, a broker, together with Edward Robinson, an employee of his office and a friend of Fischer's, was summoned to the District Attorney's office and questioned by Chief Assistant District Attorney Talley.

**Warning Sent From Toronto**  
The card which carried the warning to Mr. Homans had on the side opposite the correspondence a picture of the City Hall and Temple Building in Toronto. It was dated simply "13th" from that city. The message read:

"Dear Shep: Keep away from Wall Street this Wednesday afternoon. There never was a road that didn't have a turn. Good luck. ED."

In their conversation with Mr. Talley, Mr. Homans and Mr. Robinson expressed their belief that Fischer is simply a paranoiac whose delusions took the form of an intense hatred for wealth and a sympathy for what he termed the "under dog."

Mr. Robinson recalled that a few weeks ago, when the Russians appeared to have the upper hand of Poland and the fall of Warsaw seemed imminent, Fischer seemed elated and advised Robinson to "dispose of everything, as they were going to blow up the Stock Exchange."

Mr. Robinson said he had attributed the explosion to one of Fischer's irrational moments and interpreted the pronoun to refer to the Bolsheviks, then in the midst of military successes.

Both Mr. Homans and Mr. Robinson described Fischer as a man of remarkably likable personality, kind-hearted and brilliant when in his right mind.

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### Blast Hurls a Slug Two-thirds of a Mile

One of the freaks of the explosion was reported to the police yesterday. It consisted of a piece of a broken sash weight that fell on the Pennsylvania Railroad, at the foot of Cortlandt Street and North River, two-thirds of a mile from the scene of the explosion. In order to reach the ferryboat the missile had been hurled over four of the city's largest skyscrapers—the Equitable Building, the Bankers Trust Building, the Singer and the City Investing buildings.

### Palmer Puts Entire Force On Red Hunt

**Attorney General Arrives With Garvan; Takes Personal Charge of Search for Wall Street Plotters**

**Round-Up of All Radicals Forecast**

**Deportation of Criminal Alien Anarchists by U. S. Likely Will Be Renewed**

Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer arrived in this city last night from Washington with his assistant, Francis P. Garvan, who has charge of the investigation of radical activities, and took up at once the inquiry into the Wall Street explosion. He said that he had planned the trip to New York before the explosion, but now that he was here he would make a personal investigation.

"At present," he said, "I believe this to be the result of a criminal conspiracy. I hope that further developments may tend to prove the contrary—that it was an accident—but all the present indications are that it was a deliberate outrage."

Mr. Palmer said that almost the entire field force of the Department of Justice had been assigned to tasks that it was hoped would lead to the solution of the mystery surrounding the disaster. His department, he said, was far less conversant with anarchistic affairs than it was six months ago, the cut of \$750,000 which Congress made in its appropriation having necessitated a reduction of one-third in the number of operatives.

**"Criminal Act," He Says**  
"If it is found," he said, "that the explosion in Wall Street was beyond a doubt a criminal act, we may, with the support of public opinion, be able to take more drastic action with relation to the deportation of alien criminal anarchists—the only class we have been unable to handle."

It was called to the Attorney General's attention that the anarchistic circulars found in a letter box at Cedar Street and Broadway at about the time of the explosion discussed the release of political prisoners, and he was asked if he thought there was any connection between the explosion and the appeal which Socialists and labor leaders made to him Tuesday night for such action. Mr. Palmer said that he thought any such suspicion was absurd.

He will return to Washington to-night, Mr. Garvan will remain here until to-morrow night.

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau  
WASHINGTON, Sept. 17. Convinced that an explosion of radicals in the heart of the New York financial district, in which thirty-three persons lost their lives and 400 were injured, was the work of radicals, the Department of Justice launched a nationwide hunt for those guilty of the crime.

The heads of the Department of Justice hurried to New York after they had received information from William J. Flynn, director of the Bureau of Investigation in the department, that convinced them that the explosion was the result of a bomb plot.

It was said at the department to-day that a general round-up of radicals is being considered, but decision as to whether a dragnet will be thrown out in an effort to capture the Reds whom Flynn believes to be guilty of the explosion and prevent similar crimes in other cities rests with Mr. Palmer.

The department's plans for handling the situation depend upon the result of the investigation in New York by Flynn, Palmer and Garvan, it was said at the offices here.

**Series of Bomb Plots**  
The bureau of investigation in the department has the records of and information regarding nearly every radical leader in the country, and it was stated that the authorities of a letter of warning to a New York broker was placed upon Edward P. Fischer, who was arrested in Toronto, Can. Fischer, it was said, has been under surveillance for some time.

In government circles the explosion is regarded as being another of a series of bomb plots that started with the attempt to blow up the home of Attorney General Palmer here about a year ago. The bomb in that case was placed several feet beyond the building line and outside of the Palmer house.

The local police declared that since the placing of the bomb at the Palmer home the radicals who were in Washington at the time have fled. They were unable to withstand the close surveillance, Inspector Grant, of the Detective Bureau, declared, and went

(Continued on next page)

### Death Threat In Missives Of Anarchists

**Postman Finds Sheets in Mail Box Only Two and a Half Blocks From Broad and Wall Streets**

**Flynn Sees Series Of Red Outrages**

**Release of All Political Prisoners Is Demanded in Scarlet Lettering**

### Bomb Is Exploded in Genoa Stock Exchange

LONDON, Sept. 17.—A time bomb was exploded at the Stock Exchange in Genoa to-day, says a dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Genoa. Some damage was done, but there were no casualties. The authors of the outrage were not arrested.

### City Reward Of \$10,500 in Bomb Mystery

**\$10,000 Offer for Evidence Leading to Conviction and \$500 for Identity of Owner of Blasted Wagon**

**Slugs May Supply Clews**

**Metal Such as Used in Export Explosive Cases Found at Disaster Scene**

The Board of Estimate at a special meeting yesterday offered a reward of \$10,000 "for the apprehension and arrest and the furnishing of evidence sufficient to warrant and secure the conviction of the person or persons guilty of causing or perpetrating the disastrous explosion" in Wall Street. An additional reward of \$500 was to any person who would give information leading to the identity of the ownership of the horse-drawn wagon which it is supposed carried the explosives.

When the Mayor introduced the resolution providing for the reward, Borough President Henry H. Curran of Manhattan suggested that it be made \$25,000. The Mayor explained that the other members of the board agreed with him that \$10,000 was enough, but that it could be added to, if necessary. The additional reward was offered at the suggestion of Mayor P. H. La Guardia, President of the Board of Aldermen.

**Resolution Offered by Mayor**  
The Mayor's resolution follows: "Whereas, on September 16, 1920, a disastrous explosion of high explosive substance occurred at or near the corner of Wall Street and Broad Street in the City of New York, as a result of which many lives were lost and many citizens were wounded and maimed; and

"Whereas, it is the opinion of the members of this board that no effort should be spared in promptly determining the cause of the explosion, and that if it be found that the explosion was the result of a criminal purpose and plot, that immediate and effective steps should be taken for the detection, apprehension and conviction of the person or persons responsible for this heinous act; now, therefore, it is

"Resolved, by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, That a reward of \$10,000 be offered for the apprehension and arrest and the furnishing of evidence sufficient to warrant and secure the conviction of the person or persons guilty of causing or perpetrating the aforesaid act.

"Further resolved, that an award of \$500 be offered and paid to any person or persons furnishing the Police Department with information leading to the identity of the ownership of the horse-drawn wagon which was destroyed at the time of the said explosion."

**Fail to Trace Wagon**  
Fire Commissioner Thomas J. Drennan submitted a preliminary report to the Mayor and the board on the investigation made by the department of the explosion. The report was prepared by the Commissioner, Fire Chief John Kenlon, Dr. William P. Doyle, chief of the bureau of fire prevention, and the chief of the bureau of fire investigation.

The report did not state a definite conclusion as to the cause of the explosion except that it apparently occurred in the horse-drawn wagon in Wall Street which was blown to atoms. Fragments of the wagon recovered, however, showed that it had red running gear, according to the report, but that the weight of the wagon was probably cut into slugs by a high-powered gas burner. Pieces of sheet metal resembling tin were found in the debris similar to metal lining such as is used in the construction of export cases for high explosives, according to the report. The report follows:

"A preliminary examination of the physical conditions at the scene of the explosion indicates that it apparently occurred in a horse-drawn, covered wagon in Wall Street, on the north side, east of Nassau Street, at a point almost opposite an entrance to the United States Assay Office.

"The explosion blew the wagon to fragments, dismembering the horse and shattering windows within the vicinity, particularly damaging both the interior and exterior of the offices of J. P. Morgan & Co., on the corner of Wall and Broad streets, and the United States Assay Office.

**Automobile Tossed Into Air**  
"On the opposite side of the street there was a five-passenger automobile, license 242-46, New Jersey, 1920, car registered 73,789. Simultaneously with the explosion this automobile was

(Continued on next page)

### Need Office Help? Writeback work-ers and executives need The Tribune

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### Horse and Wagon Give Clew To Perpetrators of Disaster; Country-Wide Hunt On

**33 Dead, 400 Injured**

**Ed P. Fischer, Held in Canada, Is Widely Known as a Radical: City Offers \$10,000 Reward**

An announcement made last night that a letter carrier had found threatening circulars signed "Fighting Anarchists of America" in a mail box at Cedar Street and Broadway just three minutes before the Wall Street explosion on Thursday and only two and a half blocks from the scene, gave ground for suspicion that the same gang which sent bombs by mail and otherwise to public officials fifteen months ago, sent the wagon load of explosives and slugs to the Sub-Treasury.

Wherever one of the bombs exploded in the summer of 1919, bits of a red-printed circular entitled "Plain Words" and signed "The Fighting Anarchists" were found.

Aside from the exploration of devious anarchist trails, the chief tasks confronting detectives yesterday were the solution of the mystery shrouding the warning messages which Edward P. Fischer sent to his friends before the event, and the tracing of the horse and wagon which conveyed the mine to the center of the financial district.

Fischer is under arrest as a lunatic in Hamilton, Ontario. His brother-in-law, who delivered him to the authorities, declared that it was ridiculous to suppose that Fischer was in the confidence of dynamiters. His theory was that Fischer's mind was in such an abnormal state that it was particularly sensitive to telepathic influences, and he sent to his friends the warnings which his mind gathered from space as a wireless set collects the gossip of the sky.

The fact remains, however, that Fischer, whether he was admitted to the councils of Bolsheviks here, frequently espoused the cause of Soviet Russia in conversation with his friends. One of his earliest utterances concerning a disaster in Wall Street was delivered in the course of such a talk. He had been discussing with an employee in a friend's brokerage office the successes of Soviet troops in Polish territory and advised him to sell whatever securities he had as next "they would blow up Wall Street."

In Canada, Fischer made a number of extravagant statements and predictions. He insisted to friends that J. P. Morgan would be dead within a week.

### Time of Explosion Fixed by Fischer

Such a statement alone would be without significance, but Fischer's later notices, though expressed sometimes in the vague and incoherent terms of a man whose mind is beyond his control, were so definite in stating the time of Wall Street's punishment as to arouse the interest of investigators, though just far enough from being absolutely accurate as probably to absolve Fischer from actual complicity in the outrage.

The death roll of the explosion mounted yesterday to thirty-three, all but one of whom have been identified. It was estimated that at least four hundred persons suffered injury in some degree.

Chief Flynn of the Department of Justice declared that there was "absolutely no doubt" that the wagon, which some witnesses said flew a red flag, carried an infernal machine. His statement that the driver was within six minutes' walk of the Morgan offices at the time of the explosion led to the belief that Federal detectives have picked up his trail.

He made public anarchistic circulars found in a letter box at Broadway and Cedar Street at 11:58 a. m. Thursday, just three minutes before the explosion. The circulars were signed "American Anarchistic Fighters" and commanded: "Free the political prisoners or it will mean death for all of you."

Federal authorities believe that an organized gang of anarchists conceived and carried out the plot. The "Flying Squadron" of the Department of Justice, which formerly confined its activities to the prosecution of profiteers, has been put on the trail of the dynamiters.

Thomas J. Tunney, ex-Police Inspector and organizer of the bomb squad, declared that at least half a dozen men were conversant with the details of the plot, and that the immediate task before detectives was to trace the horse and wagon. Fragments of the wagon were collected at headquarters.

They indicated that the vehicle was a venerable one, probably twenty years in service at least, and was designed for a butter and egg cart, such vehicles, it was explained, having an unusually wide box in order to accommodate crates of eggs in tiers of five.

Information received by the police indicates that the driver of the bomb wagon was about thirty-five or forty years old. He was dressed as a laborer, wearing brown overalls that were splashed with white, and a slouch hat. The driver is said to have had a growth of beard. Witnesses agree that a red flag hung from the rear of the wagon.

### Grand Jury Investigation Ordered

Judge Wadhams of General Sessions charged the grand jury to investigate the explosion with a view to determining whether a crime had been committed, whether existing laws provided an adequate safeguard against a recurrence of such a disaster, and whether there had been any negligence in enforcing the law. The grand jurors visited Broad and Wall streets with Assistant District Attorney Talley.

Exactly twenty-four hours after the explosion which marred the Sub-Treasury with its hail of iron slugs, the Sons of the American Revolution held exercises on the steps of the building to commemorate the 133d anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution. More than one hundred thousand persons were present.

Trading on the Stock Exchange, the Curb and the Consolidated was resumed at the usual hour, and revealed an unshaken confidence in the future. Almost 1,000,000 shares changed hands in the Stock Exchange. It was the biggest day's trading since August 9, and except for a few minutes' irregularity at the opening, prices had a marked upward trend. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment, on the resolution of Mayor Hyman, offered a reward of \$10,000 for information leading to the conviction of those responsible for the explosion, and an additional reward of \$500 was offered for information as to the owner of the horse and wagon.

Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer arrived from Washington last